



Idaho Sen. Dean Mortimer (right) presents a joint memorial recognizing INL to Dennis Miotla, interim manager of DOE's Idaho Operations Office, during the recent INL Day at the Legislature.

INL celebrates 60th anniversary with Idaho legislators

by [Marilyn Whitney](#), *INL Communications & Public Affairs*

Idaho National Laboratory's 60th anniversary milestone received special recognition from Idaho legislators as more than 100 lawmakers, elected officials and guests gathered for INL's annual legislative forum recently in Boise.

Sen. Bart Davis (Dist. 33), Sen. Dean Mortimer (Dist. 32) and Rep. Erik Simpson (Dist. 32) began by presenting House Joint Memorial No. 2 to Dennis Miotla, interim manager of the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho Operations Office. The joint memorial congratulates INL on its 60 years of innovation and contributions to the world's use of nuclear energy. It also encourages sustained funding for ongoing research, development, demonstration and deployment of advanced nuclear processes and systems. A copy of this memorial has been sent to the president of the United States, the Secretary of Energy, the president of the U.S. Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives as well as the state of Idaho's congressional delegation.

Miotla thanked Idaho's leaders for supporting the laboratory and pledged that DOE will continue to focus on meeting its commitments to state of Idaho. He reminded legislators of the many benefits of having one of only 10 national laboratories in their state, and he encouraged lawmakers to look to INL for innovation, leadership and partnership.



Lab Director John Grossenbacher (left) and former Gov. Cecil Andrus visit after INL's annual briefing for legislators in Boise.

John Fulton, president and CEO of CH2M-WG Idaho, LLC (CWI), provided an update and highlights of the Idaho Cleanup Project. Current activities include:

- Transferring spent nuclear fuel out of basins into safer dry storage,
- Building the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit to treat waste and allow for closure of underground waste tanks,
- Deactivating and demolishing facilities no longer in use,
- Exhuming buried waste for shipment to New Mexico's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).



Dennis Miotla greets former Gov. Cecil Andrus at the INL legislative forum in Boise.

"We are meeting our commitments to clean up and move waste out of Idaho and prepare for new missions at the INL Site," Fulton told legislators.

Rick Dale, communications manager for Bechtel BWXT Idaho, which manages and operates the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) for the DOE, updated lawmakers on his company's mission to retrieve stored nuclear waste, characterize it, treat it and ship it out of Idaho for permanent disposal at WIPP. Dale noted that AMWTP is the newest and most sophisticated waste processing plant in the DOE complex.

"Of significance to all Idahoans," he said, "is the fact that we're nearly three years ahead of the Governor's Settlement Agreement."

INL Laboratory Director John Grossenbacher presented an overview of INL's diverse business base and significant economic impact to the state. Grossenbacher detailed new INL facilities being constructed, including a new radiation measurements laboratory, radioanalytical and radiochemistry labs, and a test train assembly facility to provide new modernized space and a controlled environment that will support ATR National Scientific User Facility testing. Grossenbacher highlighted INL's record year for new Work for Others agreements, a 14 percent increase in royalties from existing licenses and the value of Cooperative Research and Development Agreements that doubled in Fiscal Year 2008.

"INL is your laboratory," Grossenbacher reminded legislators, encouraging them to learn more about INL and its capability to benefit Idaho and the region.

Links:

[Governor's proclamation](#)

[House Joint Memorial No.2](#)

[Feature Archive](#)